



News Release

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DGS Takes Safety Precautions on Capitol Square as Construction Increases

~ Capitol Square hours change and areas fenced off ~

RICHMOND, VA – The Department of General Services (DGS) today announced that it will be changing Capitol Square hours and that parts of the grounds will be inaccessible due to increased construction activity. From March 1 through March 13, Capitol Square will be open from sunrise until 7 p.m., a shift from the current 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. hours. Starting March 14, Capitol Square will open at sunrise and close at 9 p.m.

“We have several Capitol Square construction projects beginning in the next few weeks that will change the walkability of the square and make parts of it less accessible,” **said DGS Director Joe Damico**. “These new Capitol Square hours are being put in place to limit the amount of time people will be walking around active construction sites in the dark and for the safety of those who are working on or visiting Capitol Square.”

Fencing will go up on Capitol Square starting the week of Feb. 22, on the south side of the Capitol, and along North Drive. Contractors will begin construction to replace the seal on the landing below the portico on March 1. For this project, contractors will replace the skylight with a simulated skylight and a new structural infill. The Capitol extension will be closed for this construction, which is scheduled to be complete by late summer.

Crews will begin working on enhancements to North Drive in early March. Additional construction fencing will be erected on and around North Drive, closing off half of the road to foot and vehicular traffic. Walkways in this area may be blocked off as well. The North Drive enhancements include a new Capitol Police guard station and a new entrance gate for North

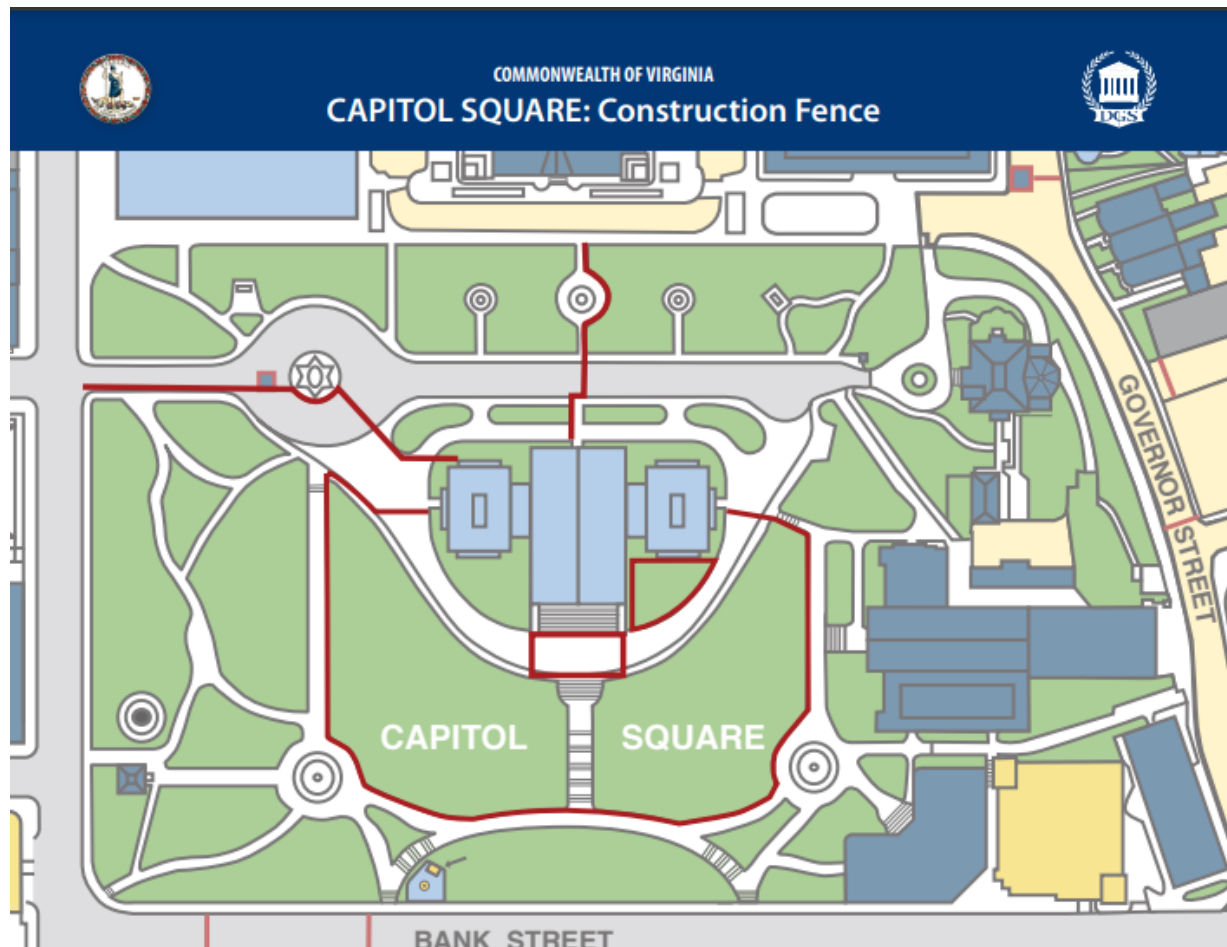
Drive that will reflect the historic 1865 entry gate. These projects are slated to be complete in the fall of this year.

“With all of this increased construction activity, it is imperative that individuals be aware of their surroundings,” said Damico. “Our primary concern at DGS is safety, and we want to make sure that people who are walking around Capitol Square and our construction crews are safe while these improvements are underway.”

About DGS: DGS provides laboratory, procurement, real estate, and engineering and architectural services for state agencies, as well as fleet vehicle management, graphic design, surplus property disposal, and mail services at the seat of government. The agency also manages the facilities and grounds at Capitol Square.

For more information, visit dgs.virginia.gov or www.eva.virginia.gov.

*Map of where fencing is to be placed on Capitol Square



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